

REMARKS

Claims 14-23 are pending in the application. Claims 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bienert (6,506,611). With this response, claim 14 has been amended, and claims 24-26 have been newly added. No new matter is added by amendment. Support for the amendment can be found at least at p. 17, third and fourth paragraphs. Reconsideration of the claims as amended, in light of the remarks that follow, is respectfully requested.

Bienert discloses a system in which actuators push micropipettes or picking pins downward when actuated, and in which springs lift the micropipettes or picking pins upwards when the actuator is disengaged. For example, for the “block-wise activation of numerous micropipettes” as illustrated in Fig. 5, Bienert discloses using a cylinder device 501 to exert a downward force (arrow P) on all pipettes encompassed by a plate element 502 (col. 10, lines 12-26). According to Bienert, after the force P is released, the pipettes are moved upward by pin springs (arrow F) (col. 10, lines 37-39).

In contrast, claim 14 as amended recites:

a plurality of pin lifting mechanisms, each pin lifting mechanism of the plurality of pin lifting mechanisms associated with a different one of said subsets, each pin lifting mechanism configured to lift the pins of the subset upward together relative to the printhead when the pin lifting mechanism is actuated, and configured to release the pins of the subset downward together relative to the printhead when the pin lifting mechanism is disengaged following actuation.

First, Bienert does not disclose an apparatus in which a pin lifting mechanism is configured to lift the pins of a subset upward together relative to the printhead when the pin lifting mechanism is actuated, as is recited in claim 14. Instead, Bienert discloses actuators that are configured to push pipettes downward when actuated, contrary to the requirements of claim 14. Moreover, Bienert does not disclose an apparatus in which a pin lifting mechanism is configured to release the pins of the subset downward together relative to the printhead when the pin lifting mechanism is disengaged following actuation, as is recited in claim 14. Bienert discloses that when the actuator is disengaged following actuation, pin springs move the pipettes upwards, contrary to the requirements of claim 14.

Thus, Applicant submits that Bienert does not anticipate claim 14 as amended, or claims dependent thereon.

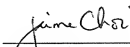
Applicant also not concede that Bienert discloses a system in which actuators lift subsets of pins upward. Bienert discloses a system in which pipettes are individually lifted by springs. However, Applicant has made the above amendment in an effort to advance prosecution.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the Examiner to allow the claims to issue.

A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee required for this response to Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0111453.00122US3 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. Applicant believes no other fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0111453.00122US3.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 29, 2007



Jaime Choi
Registration No.: 59,198
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
60 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 526-6000 (telephone)
(617) 526-5000 (facsimile)